



MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES, STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Violet Varona-Lukens, Executive Officer
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
Los Angeles, California 90012

Chief Administrative Officer
Auditor-Controller
County Counsel

At its meeting held May 25, 2004, the Board took the following action:

25-A

Supervisor Molina made the following statement:

“A report issued by the Chief Administrative Officer on May 20, 2004, indicates that the Board may legally charge contract and independent cities millions of dollars more than the County currently charges. Yet, we continue to subsidize the cities based on a policy that was enacted over 32 years ago. The contracts with cities are up for renewal in several weeks and these subsidies remain a part of the contracts.

“The cities of Los Angeles County should be charged in a manner that is fair and sensible. Our goal should not be to make a profit from the cities or overburden them, yet we also must be fair to all taxpayers and ensure that the increasing costs of law enforcement are shared equally.”

Therefore, Supervisor Molina made a motion that the Board take the following actions:

1. Adopt the recommendations set forth in the Chief Administrative Officer's attached May 20, 2004 report that indicates that the Board may legally charge contract and independent cities millions of dollars more than the County currently charges for law enforcement services;

(Continued on Page 2)

25-A (Continued)

2. Request the Auditor-Controller and Sheriff, in conjunction with the Chief Administrative Officer and County Counsel, to immediately begin implementing those recommendations with the goal of changing the County's billing practices, where appropriate, for Fiscal Year 2005-06;
3. Instruct the Chief Administrative Officer, in conjunction with the Auditor-Controller, to report back within one week with a recommendation on how to complete the goal of changing the County's billing practices for Fiscal Year 2005-06 without jeopardizing the Sheriff's provision of services to contract cities under the upcoming contract renewals; and
4. Instruct the Auditor-Controller, in conjunction with the Sheriff and the Chief Administrative Officer, to report back quarterly for the next six months, and then monthly, on the progress toward changing the County's billings practices for Fiscal Year 2005-06.

The following statement was entered into the record for Supervisors Antonovich and Knabe:

“As we read the Chief Administrative Officer’s attached report, the findings indicate that there could potentially be room for changes to the County’s billing practices, however, many questions remain to be answered and additional study is required.

“We think we should be clear regarding Supervisor Molina’s motion and what it means. We do not want it to be construed that approval represents a change in Board policy with regard to billing practices. What it should mean is that additional study and potential negotiations with all parties that have a vested interest will occur that could result in recommendations being made to the Board, where legal, regarding changes to Board policy.

“The billing model used today has been in place for over 30 years because it is effective, it works, and has been mutually beneficial to both the cities and the County. That is why we think it is important that the message we send is that we are following a very thoughtful and measured process in studying this issue, as it has potential for many unintended outcomes. Therefore, we think we should strike the language in the action items that read ‘with the goal of changing our billing practices for Fiscal Year 2005-2006,’ as it may be premature pending the additional study and subsequent recommendations that are required.”

(Continued on Page 3)

25-A (Continued)

Therefore, Supervisors Antonovich and Knabe made a suggestion that Supervisor Molina's motion be amended to:

1. Clarify the language contained in the first recommendation of the Chief Administrative Officer's attached May 20, 2004 report by striking the words "into the rates charged to cities" and inserting "and make recommendations regarding those costs;"
2. Remove all references to "the goal of changing the County's billing practices for Fiscal Year 2005-2006"; and
3. Request the Auditor-Controller, in conjunction with the Sheriff and Chief Administrative Officer, to include as part of the quarterly reports to the Board on this issue, a discussion of potential unintended outcomes, including potential impacts to public safety.

Supervisor Molina accepted Supervisors Antonovich and Knabe's amendment.

Supervisor Molina's motion, as amended, seconded by Supervisor Knabe, was unanimously carried (Supervisor Yaroslavsky being absent).

8052504-25-A

Attachment

Copies distributed:

Each Supervisor
Chief Administrative Officer
County Counsel

Letter sent to:

Sheriff